

# FACT SHEET

(916) 445-4950 / [WWW.CDCR.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CDCR.CA.GOV)



## *Existing Media Access Procedures*

- The media can meet or correspond with inmates four ways:
  - Media can write to them via US Mail;
  - Media can become an approved visitor, and meet with an inmate face-to-face during regular visitor hours;
  - Media can give an inmate a phone number so the inmate can call a journalist collect during an inmate's telephone privileges;
  - Upon prior approval and background clearance, media can enter a secure facility and conduct random face-to-face interviews with inmates with tape recorders, notebooks and still digital or film cameras.

*In some cases, media have been able to meet their intended inmate subjects during these random tours by finding out ahead of time when an inmate might be out in a recreation yard, or area of the prison, during a prior meeting at visitation or through a telephone conversation.*

- Under present regulations:
- The CDCR does not arrange face-to-face interviews for media with specific inmates outside of a regular visitation setting;

- The CDCR does not allow electronic recording equipment into visiting;
- The CDCR specifically requests that journalists who interview inmates during telephone calls to notify the inmate that the conversation is being recorded;
- When reporters become approved visitors of inmates, they cannot bring in recording devices or cameras into the inmate visiting room, but can request paper and pencils from visiting personnel. In fact, no one, not even the inmate's own mother, can bring these items into visiting. This is to protect the privacy of other visitors who are there to see their loved ones in prison.

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